

**Robert Dinwiddie to George Washington, September 11, 1754, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM GOVERNOR DINWIDDIE.**

WILLIAMSBURG Sept. 11th 1754

SR.

No doubt You have heard that our Assembly is prorogu'd without granting any Supplies;<sup>1</sup> Under this unexpected disappointment, I fear we are not Numbers sufficient to attack the Fort taken from Us by the French: Therefore I order You to give a Detachment of Forty or Fifty Men to Capt. Lewis, with them he is to march immediately for Augusta County, in order to protect our Frontiers from the Incursions of small Parties of Indians, & I suppose some French, order him to march immediately & to apply to Colo. Patton the County Lieut. who will direct him where to proceed, that he may be the most usefull—With the remainder of our regiment You are to march to Wills Creek, to join the other Forces in executing such Orders as I may see proper to direct: Major Carlyle will supply Your Men with Necessaries, not doubting they will agree to have the said Supplies stop't from their Pay; I therefore desire You will immediately march them to the Place above mentioned. You know best whether You can venture to march them from Rock Creek to Wills's.—This late Disappointment from the Assembly has entirely defeated the Operations I had proposed, however its probable on their next Meeting they will more seriously consider the great Danger our Country is exposed to & grant proper Supplies — I am sorry my Clerk sent Yr. Comission unsigned, it's a very great Omission, if you had sent it down the Date should

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have been alter'd, I mean a few Days after Colo. Fry's Death, & I would have signed it & returned it to You.

I have appointed M. Peyroney Capt. agreeable to Your recomendation. And I now send you Comisss. agreeable to Your List, which deliver to them, & let them know, that I expect they will discharge their Duties with good Spirit, & a proper Example of Courage & good Conduct. I have only sent You four Comissions for Ensigns, till I have a proper Supply for their Payment. I think You may order Wm Wright to join Capt. Lewis when he goes to Augusta.—As to Fraizer, he is not here at present, I shall consider what You write in regard to him.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Campbell is to have 50 per Ann. from Your Salary as Adjutant, & that is what Finnie receives from Mr. Muse. I expect You will march accordingly for Wills's Creek, & send me an Acct. of the Number of Men. You have not sent Acct. of the Pay of Your Regiment; as the Pay was ordered for the whole Number, there must be great Saving from the Dead & Deserters. I have not yet been able to procure a proper Allowance for the poor Sick & Wounded, which gives me Concern; Majr. Carlyle in the mean Time must maintain them till I can obtain some Allowance for their Misfortune in the Service of their Country; & for the Future send me a Monthly Muster Roll, with the Pay due to each Company & I doubt not I shall be enable'd to pay them duely.

Let me know the day You march & I sincerely wish You Health & Happiness & I remain

Sr Your Friend & Sv ROBT. DINWIDDIE.

1 The agent's expenses [Peyton Randolph, the Attorney-General of Virginia, sent to England by the House of Burgesses to settle the affair of the pistole fee] were two thousand five hundred pounds. The Governor refused to sanction any bill for their payment. Piqued by this obstinacy, the House of Burgesses affixed the amount to a bill for raising twenty thousand pounds for his Majesty's service. Equally indignant at this presumption, the Governor sent back the bill without his signature, and prorogued the Assembly for six weeks. Thus no supplies were granted, and the Governor was induced to write that "there appeared to him an infatuation in all the assemblies in this part of the world." The treasurer of the colony had already paid the agent by order of the Assembly, without any special grant, which was no doubt a high disrespect to the Governor and Council. In giving an account of this affair to Governor Sharpe, of Maryland, Governor Dinwiddie says: "I am now persuaded that no expedition

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can be conducted here with dependence on American Assemblies; and I have written to that purpose home, and proposed a British act of Parliament to compel the subjects here to obedience to his Majesty's commands, and to protect their property from the insults of the French.”—SPARKS.

Lieutenant Frazer had with Captain Trent been tried by a court-martial on account of his absence during the attack in which Fort Duquesne was taken by the French, and had been found partially excusable on account of permission having been granted him, when he accepted a commission to act as lieutenant, to reside at his own house, ten miles from the fort, and visit it only at stated times. Washington, however, had later on recommended him for adjutant, saying, in a letter to Governor Dinwiddie, dated August 20, 1754: “I should, therefore, take it extremely kind if you would be pleased to confer the office upon Mr. Frazier, whom I think I can fully answer for, let his former conduct be what it may.”